

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 08750 082051Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-04 INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIEP-01 FRB-01 OMB-01 AID-05 CEA-01

SIL-01 SAM-01 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /082 W

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P 081941Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7761

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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SEOUL PASS JURICH FROM GREENWALD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC

SUBJECT: TEXTILES -- MFA

REF: (A) SEOUL 7416; (B) EC BRUSSELS 8602; (C) USEC/

GENEVA (PHELAN) TELCONS

1. SUMMARY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL A, I HAVE TAKEN UP THE TEXTILE ISSUE WITH SOAMES. WE AGREED THAT THE BEST SOLUTION AT THE MOMENT IS TO TAKE THE ARTICLE 4 ISSUE OFF THE NOVEMBER 13 TSB MEETING AGENDA WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS ON EITHER SIDE. THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE BILATERAL US/EC COMMISSION TALKS SOONEST. ON MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, MEYNELL ALSO AGREED TO THE APOSTPONEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS WITH EC COMMISSIONER SOAMES NOVEMBER 8, I RAISED THE TEXTILE ISSUE DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL A AND B.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 08750 082051Z

I REVIEWED THE MFA'S NEGOTIATING HISTORY AND

STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING A CONFRONTATION OVER TEXTILES WHILE THE TRA IS STILL PENDING IN CONGRESS. SOAMES WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS BUT AGREED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE PUT OFF UNTIL US AND COMMISSION NEGOTIATORS HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSUME. MORE INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MISSION OFFICERS AND MEYNELL LED TO SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CONCLUSION.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TELCONS THAT THE NOVEMBER 13 TSB MEETING HAS A BROAD AGENDA ITEM ON ARTICLE 4 AGREEMENTS WITH TWO SUB HEADINGS: (A) THE NEW NOTIFICATIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING; AND (B) "THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOUGHT BY THE TSB IN CONNECTION WITH PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS...". WHILE NOT CONVINCED IT IS A PRODUCTIVE COURSE OF ACTION, MEYNELL SAYS HE WOULD GO ALONG WITH HAVING BOTH SUB-ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA IF THE US TAKES THE INITIATIVE AND WORKS OUT THE SCENARIO WITH WURTH. HE HAS LATITUDE AND IS WILLING TO LET THE MATTER PASS IN SILENCE. IF, HOWEVER, A DISCUSSION STARTS, MEYNELL CLAIMS HE MIGHT BE PLACED IN A POSITION WHERE HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS.

4. AS WE SEE IT, THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO HAVE BOTH SUB-POINTS UNDER ITEM C REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 13. MEETING. IF THIS IS NOT PRACTICABLE, THE MINIMUM COURSE WE RECOMMEND IS THE FOLLOWING: REMOVE THE SECOND SUB-ITEM COVERING THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOUGHT BY THE TSB, ETC., FROM THE AGENDA COMPLETELY. KEEP SUB POINT (A) DEALING WITH NEW NOTIFICATIONS BUT ARRANGE A CAREFUL SCENARIO WITH THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHER DELS IN GENEVA SO THAT THE RISK OF A DISCUSSION STARTING AND GETTING OUT OF HAND IS MINIMIZED.

5. IN TALKING WITH MEYNELL ABOUT THE FOREGOING APPROACH, HE REPEATED SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS REPORTED IN REFTEL C. WE REBUTTED THESE FIRMLY AND STUCK WITH THE LINE THAT THE RECORD IS CLEAR AND THAT THE US IS NOT PREPARED TO BARGAIN OR COMPROMISE ON THE SUBSTANCE.

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 08750 082051Z

6. MEYNELL ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO LET THE COMMISSION HAVE -- BILATERALLY IF NOT VIA PRESENTATION TO THE TSB -- THE KIND OF "REASONED STATEMENT" DESCRIBED IN REFTEL C, PARA. SEVEN. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS EARLIER PLEA THAT WE TALK FURTHER DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMISSION IN AN EFFORT TO IRON OUT THE MATTER. MEYNELL EXPLICITLY STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH A SCENARIO TO GET THE ARTICLE 4 ISSUE

OFF THE AGENDA IS GENEVA NEXT WEEK IS NOT CONDITIONED
ON OUR MAKING PROCEDURAL OR SUBSTANTIVE COMMITMENTS
ABOUT WHAT APPENS AFTERWARD. HE PLANS IN ANY CASE
TO COORDINATE WITH PHELAN ON THE SPOT PRIOR TO THE
MEETING.

7. MEYNELL IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTERNAL
SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY AND FEARS THAT HE MAY
HAVE TROUBLE GETTING NEGOTIATING MANDATES APPROVED BY
THE MEMBER STATES. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE US
CONTINUING TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENTS WITHOUT
DISCUSSION IN THE TSB.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) US MISSION GENEVA TO TAKE
APPROPRIATE STEPS TO GET THE ITEM OFF THE AGENDA AND TO
CONCERT WITH MEYNELL N NOVEMBER 13; (B) MINISTER JURICH TO
COME TO BRUSSELS SOONEST FOR TALKS WITH THE COMMISSION ON
THE ARTICLE 4 ISSUE.GREENWALD

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